THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The news-item appearing in Jansatta of 23rd February, 1995 has been seen. The agriculture sector in the country has also been influenced by the New Economic Policy. The major areas of economic reforms in agriculture sector relate to reversal of trends of investment, maintenance of remunerative prices, encourasing processing of agricultural produce in rural areas, phasing out of domestic trade and marketing restrictions, promotion of external trade and scaling down of preferential protection to the industrial sector. Appropriate action on these lines has already been initiated. Public Sector outlays for agriculture and allied sectors have already been raised substantially in the Eighth Plan.

Revitalisation of cooperative sector

4878. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any steps recently to revitalise the cooperative sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Central Government have recently initiated a series of measures to revitalise cooperatives at the grass root level. These include:

(i) Initiating the process of Business Development Planning in Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies;

(ii) Strengthening the role of Federal Cooperatives in relation to Primary Cooperative Societies;

(iii) Supporting of self-help efforts of the Cooperatives;

(iv) Efforts to make Cooperative Sector democratic and functionally independent;

(v) Strengthening of training of cooperative personnel to make the cooperatives professionalised and improve their working.

राष्ट्रीय मूल्य निर्धारण बोर्ड

4879. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार द्वारा गन्ने का वाजिब मूल्य तय करने के लिए बनाई गई केन्द्रीय समिति ने राष्ट्रीय मूल्य निर्धारण बोर्ड बनाने का सुझाव दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस सुझाव को मानने के लिए तैयार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) सरकार ने 31.3.1994 को राज्य द्वारा सूचित गन्ने के मूल्यों की मूल्य निर्धारण नीति के संबंध में की जाने वाली सिफारिशें करने के लिए 5 राज्य मंत्रियों की एक समिति गठित की है । समिति ने गन्ने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय मूल्य निर्धारण बोर्ड के गठन की सिफारिश की है ।

(ख) और (ग) समिति की सिफारिशों को विचार-विमर्श हेतु 6.5.1995 को होने वाले सभी गन्ना उत्पादक राज्यों के चीनी मंत्रियों के सम्मेलन में रखा जा रहा है ।

Increase in the Proudction of Pulses

4880. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to Economic Survey report the production of pulses has increased from 127 lakh tonnes in 1960-61 to 131 lakh tonnes in 1993-94.

(b) whether it is also a fact that import of pulses rose from 11.56 worth crore of dollars to 18.1 crore dollars in 1933-94; and

(c) if so, the justification for export of pulses in the interest of Agricultural Product Export Development Authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The export of pulses is permitted subject to a quantitative ceiling, with a view to afford better prices to the farmers and also to earn more foreign exchange.

Bringing Agricultural Land under Drip Irrigation

4881. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated targets for bringing agricultural land under drip irrigation in the country during 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of hectares of land likely to be brought under drip irrigation in Madhya Pradesh during the said period; and

(d) the district-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government have planned to provide central assistance of Rs. 45.70 crores during 1995-96 to cover about 36256 hectares of land growing horticulture crops including oil polm under drip irrigation.

(c) Out of the above target, an area of 1800 hectares is proposed to be covered in Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96.

(d) The district-wise area to be covered under drp irrigation is not available.

Expenditure on Research and Development

4882. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research and development of agriculture in the country particularly in the State of Punjab during the last three years;

(b) the details of the research being carried on in the different institutes in the country during the current year 1995-96; and

(c) the details thereof and its achievements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The amount spent for research and development of agriculture during the last 3 years in the country was Rs. 10939.30 crores and in the State of Punjab was Rs. 216.92 crores.

(b) and (c) The details of research being carried on in the different institutes in the country and also the achivements made are laid down on the Floor of Parliament every year through performance budget document of Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture.

Long Term Policy on R &D in Agriculture

4883. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any long term policy regardng research and development on agriculture in the country particularly in the State of Punjab.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?